

**The City of Springfield, Ohio
City Commission Public Hearing Minutes
Tuesday, September 14, 2021 – 6:55 p.m.
City Hall Forum**

233-21 Renaming a portion of West Clark Street, from Wittenberg Avenue to Plum Street, to the dual naming of “West Clark Street/Youlish Rhodes Sr. Way.”

The public hearing was called to order by Assistant Mayor and Acting President Chilton. Roll Call was answered by Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, and Mrs. Chilton. Mr. Copeland and Mr. Rue were absent.

Mrs. Chilton inquired from the Clerk if proper legal notice was given on such public hearing.

The Clerk read a communication relative thereto, attached to which were copies of the public hearing notices. Said notices were published in the *Springfield News-Sun* on August 23 and 30, 2021.

On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. O'Neill, the communication and notice were ordered received, recorded in the minutes, and filed.

Yeas, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, and Mrs. Chilton.

Yeas 3, Nays 0.

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September 14, 2021

Honorable City Commission  
The City of Springfield, Ohio

Honorable Commissioners:

Notice of a public hearing for the purpose of considering the renaming of a portion of West Clark Street from Wittenberg Avenue to Plum Street to the proposed dual naming of “West Clark Street/Youlish Rhodes Sr. Way” was published in the *Springfield News-Sun*, a newspaper of general circulation within the City.

Attached hereto are true and correct copies of the Notices of Public Hearing published on August 23 and 30, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill R. Pierce  
Clerk of the City Commission

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First Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED DUAL STREET RENAMING

Notice is hereby given that on June 29, 2021, Samuel Rashada, Sr. filed with the Clerk of the City Commission of The City of Springfield, Ohio, a certain petition praying for the renaming of a portion of West Clark Street from Wittenberg Avenue to Plum Street, to the proposed dual naming of “West Clark Street/Youlish Rhodes Sr. Way.”

Notice is hereby further given that a Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 6:55 P.M. (local time), in the City Commission Forum, City Hall, 76 East High Street, Springfield, Ohio, to consider the renaming of said street. Details on how to participate can be found on the City's website, www.springfieldohio.gov or by calling the City Clerk's Office at 937-324-7341.

By order of the City Commission of The City of Springfield, Ohio.

Jill R. Pierce
Clerk of the City Commission

NEWS-SUN: Monday, August 23, 2021

Second Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED DUAL STREET RENAMING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 6:55 p.m. (local time), in the City Commission Forum, City Hall, 76 East High Street, Springfield, Ohio, to consider the renaming of a portion of West Clark Street from Wittenberg Avenue to Plum Street, to the proposed dual naming of “West Clark Street/Youlish Rhodes Sr. Way.” Details on how to participate can be found on the City's website, www.springfieldohio.gov or by calling the City Clerk's Office at 937-324-7341.

This notice has been published on the State of Ohio public notice website at www.publicnoticesohio.com and can also be viewed at www.springfieldnewssun.com.

By order of the City Commission of The City of Springfield, Ohio.

Jill R. Pierce
Clerk of the City Commission

Stephen Thompson, Community Development Deputy Director, City of Springfield, Ohio
76 East High Street, 937-324-7674, sthompson@springfieldohio.gov
NEWS-SUN: Monday, August 30, 2021



Mrs. Chilton then called upon City Planner Agwan for a staff report. She reported as follows:

GENERAL INFORMATION

On June 29, 2021, Samuel Rashada Sr., 3948 East 190th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44122, filed an application to partially rename a section of West Clark Street from Wittenberg Avenue to Plum Street as Youlish Rhodes Sr. Way. The area to be renamed is approximately 0.20 miles long. A street renaming is permitted under Chapter 905 of the code: Vacation or Narrowing of Streets. Specifically, Chapter 905.02 sets forth the rules and regulations governing street and alley name changes.

The applicant stated in his application: "He was born on February 2, 1921 and raised in the little town of Sparta, Georgia. He had to quit school at an early age to work in the cotton fields. He later married Dazzie (Tucker) Rhodes and moved to Springfield in the early 40's for better opportunities. In Springfield, he had 11 children and all his children attended schools in Springfield, Ohio. He and his wife Dazzie (Tucker) Rhodes have more than 150 offspring and many of them have made Springfield their home. His first job was with the Crowell Collier Plant until it shut down in the 50's. He began working for the City of Springfield Sanitation Department until retiring in 1989. He was beloved and well known by many due to his work ethics, commitment to family and church life. He was an active member and Deacon Emeritus for Restored Life Ministries (formerly St Luke Baptist Church). He purchased a home on Wittenberg Avenue and after 30 years he purchased their second home at 308 West Clark Street. He loved to sing and pray while opening up his home to anyone needing assistance. A great man known by many, he passed away on May 12, 2021. More than 200 people during Covid-19 attended his 100 birthday celebration at the Simon Kenton Inn. Youlish Rhodes Sr. Way will be a welcome sight and a great way to memorialize his legacy."

RETURNED REPORTS

City Service Department:	Recommends Denial. This will create additional expense and not benefit the transportation system. Estimated cost is \$1,000. Renaming of streets causes residents to have to deal with formal and informal address change (legal documents, property and financial documents).
Building Inspections:	No objections. Recommends Approval.
Fire Division:	No objections. Recommends Approval.
Police Division:	No objections. Recommends Approval.
City Manager's Office:	Recommends Denial. High cost of material.
Planning and Zoning:	No objections.

RECOMMENDATION

Initially, staff recommended denial of the renaming request. At the City Planning Board, discussion was held between the applicant and board members to change the request from a renaming to a dual naming. The City Planning Board unanimously recommended approval of the request to rename the portion of the street West Clark Street/Youlish Rhodes Sr. Way. Staff recommended approval of the dual naming.

COMMENTS

Mrs. Chilton asked if there were comments from the Commission. Mrs. Chilton also noted for the audience members that a first reading of the ordinance would be conducted during the formal meeting with a second reading and vote on September 28, 2021.

Mr. Chilton asked about the expenses related to dual renaming of streets. City Manager Heck stated the policy is to work with the applicants on the required signage and share 50 percent of the cost of materials.

Dr. Estrop noted the dual naming is a nice way to recognize a citizen's contributions to the community.

Mrs. Chilton asked if there were audience members who wished to speak.

Pastor Raymond Lloyd of El Bethel Temple asked for an estimate of the expense related to the signage. Mr. Heck estimated the materials would cost about \$1,000 total. Pastor Lloyd stated that community members would raise funds for the family's share.

Applicant Sam Rhodes Rashada of Cleveland, Ohio, spoke of his father's accomplishments and family impact noting how many people attended the hearing in support of the request.

Ms. Lisa Rhodes, spoke of her grandfather's life and family.

Ms. Gladys Rhodes, 1208 Dibert, stated she is Mr. Rhodes' oldest living child and spoke about Mr. Rhodes working in the city to support his family.

Pastor Maynard of Restored Life Ministries spoke favorably on the dual renaming request.



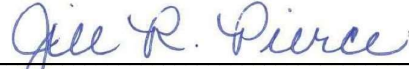
There being no further business, on motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. O'Neill, the public hearing adjourned.

Yeas, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, and Mrs. Chilton.

Yeas 3, Nays 0.



ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COMMISSION



CLERK OF THE CITY COMMISSION